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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2003 LB 111, 165, 210, 233, 233A, 286, 487, 572
608, 759

some announcements, Mr. President: a Reference report; Senator Thompson, an amendment to LB 608 to be printed. Enrollment and Review reports LB 210 to Select File, and LB 111, LB 233, LB 233A, LB 487 as correctly engrossed. Revenue Committee reports LB 286, LB 572, and LB 759 to General File with committee amendments attached. That's all that I have. Thank you, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1148-1155.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And pardon me, Senator Mines, for my rudeness.

SENATOR MINES: My turn now, Senator Cudaback?

SENATOR CUDABACK: It's your turn.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I think it's fair to say that all of us in this body, or the vast majority of us in this body, believe that public power usually works. And I'm going to support Senator Preister's amendment, and it has most of all, in my mind, to do with indemnification. I'm a ratepayer of the Omaha Public Power District, and Senator Vrtiska put this very clearly for me, using an analogy of his farm. The example is Senator Vrtiska decides that he can no longer operate his farm. He has mismanaged his farm. This is with due respect, Senator Vrtiska. He has mismanaged his farm. He has poor operating procedures and it's going down the tubes. So Senator Vrtiska hires someone to run his farm for him. And that's certainly fine, except now Senator Vrtiska is asking all of the neighbors surrounding him to indemnify him in case that new operator decides that they mismanage it as well. So if the new manager fails in what they're doing, all the neighbors help and recoup the losses that this new operator may have. As a ratepayer of OPPD, I have a problem with that. I think that the mismanagement of the Cooper Nuclear Station, the poor operating procedures, are the responsibility and obligation of Nebraska Public Power District and their board of directors and their ratepayers. This is not a state obligation. This is the Nebraska Public Power obligation. I don't believe that indemnification is the right thing to do and bring everyone else into this problem. I think that certainly their board is going to approve the indemnification. How else are they going to get